Letter from Taizé

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September - October 1985

Pilgrimage of trust on earth in MADRAS Dec. 27, 1985 - Jan. 1, 1986

European Meeting in BARCELONA Dec. 30, 1985 - Jan. 3, 1986

Accompanied by children, Brother Roger met the Secretary-General of the United Nations and submitted six questions to him.

ill young people have the courage to be ambassadors of trust?

On July 2nd Brother Roger, accompanied by seven children, one a five-month old baby, went to GENEVA to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Being of Indian, Colombian, African, Lebanese, European and Moroccan-Muslim origins, the children reflected the diversity of the whole world.

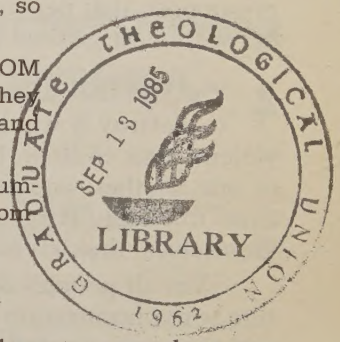
During a meeting marked by seriousness, Brother Roger submitted six questions to Mr. Perez de CUELLAR. They expressed the aspirations of young people on all continents, that the U.N. become a catalyst of trust between peoples.

It is not a matter of proposing the creation of new organisations, but rather of suggesting profound transformations in ones already existing, so that they can gain a credibility without which they are powerless.

It is essential that, in the 130 countries to which the LETTER FROM TAIZE is sent, people work on the six questions. In the coming months, they could integrate this reflection into the preparation of the BARCELONA and MADRAS meetings.

Once sent to Taizé, the suggestions from young people will be summarised and submitted to the U.N. in 1986. Mr. Perez de CUELLAR has promised that they will be taken seriously.

These are the six questions brought to GENEVA by Brother Roger:



Young people of every continent, who bear an nt desire for peace within them, are searching for ay to establish trust across the earth. They want nake sure that today's children and young people not, one day, have to live in lands of darkness re death reigns. It is for those who have no way tting their voice be heard concerning the threats ch hang over their future that, I, an old man, to-er with children, have come to submit to the UN e questions which express the aspirations of a itude of young people.

As a preparation for a worldwide meeting, which hall be holding in Madras at the end of Interna-al Youth Year (December 27th - 31st), young ple will be looking for ways for the United Na-s to be a catalyst of trust between all the peoples ne earth. Their suggestions will be collected at é, condensed, and then given to the UN during course of 1986.

What fundamental changes can be suggested so that the UN may become a place where there is agerness to create trust between all peoples?

How may a watch council be set up, ready to act at all times and with the necessary authority to prevent wars from breaking out? Once begun, nothing is more difficult to stop than war.

What ways can be found to ensure that the UN does not serve as a platform for political disputes and rivalries, nor become a place where people seek to humiliate others?

Whole peoples can be humiliated when programs that aim at a fairer distribution of the world's wealth come to nothing, or when the concentration of huge capital resources in the hands of a few gives individuals or groups vast power. In both these cases, those who are humiliated seek to get even. Humiliation often leads governments to build up enormous military strength in order to compel the respect of others. The rapid developments in military technology lead inevitably to the manufacture of weapons which are more and more economically ruinous. The tightening noose of spiralling expenditure which is thereby caused exhausts the resources which are so badly needed by all peoples. ▷

2 What guarantees can national leaders give that they will not abuse the confidence of peoples? Establishing trust throughout the earth requires clear-sightedness, a clear-sightedness that knows that trust can also be misused.

What changes can be suggested to every member nation of the UN, so that all prestige-spending be abandoned and these resources diverted to more important needs, especially the needs of those who live in poverty? In addition, will all those in positions of political authority decide once and for all to refuse any cult of their personality and all means of domination?

Many of the young are tired of the attacks by which politicians distort the intentions of their opposite numbers, attacks which can include defamation of character, and sometimes brutality. One of the consequences is the sowing of scepticism among young people, making many of them lose all eagerness to look for creative solutions.

3 An equitable distribution of material wealth in the world is one precondition for peace. It is essential to recognise new economic rights which cover housing, health, and adequate nutrition, placed on the same level as all other human rights. These rights presuppose that personal initiative can be exercised, but within established limits.

4 The fact that science and technology can be used to destroy a whole section of humanity fuels a violent crisis of trust. Nations begin to be frightened of one another, and political leaders are not exempt from this fear. It results in people turning in upon themselves, their creativity frozen by fright.

Yet all peoples desire peace, and not war, torture, or concentration camps. It is true that in every nation there is a small proportion of people who wish to impose an expansionist process, or who can, if they hold the reins of power, cynically set in motion the wheels of death.

In the absence of a vast human hope, the younger generations are no longer stimulated to participate in the building up of the human community. Confronted by emptiness, many young people are scarred by apathy and disillusionment, and they start looking for distractions that anaesthetize an intolerable anxiety.

However difficult it is, it is essential to undertake a total disarmament in the world without delay. The creation of a peace army, dependent on the United Nations' watch council and equipped in the most effective way, is indispensable, in order to be capable of intervening, at any moment, anywhere in the world, to guarantee the maintenance of peace.

With regard to disarmament, it is obvious that the complex situation cannot be dealt with by simplistic or illusory answers. The United Nations alone is capable of assuming responsibility for the negociations so urgently needed to bring about a general disarmament. Bargaining for limited disarmament generally leads to never-ending discussions while a situation of permanent insecurity continues to reign.

5 Science and technology can either destroy or build. How can all the resources freed by disarmament be used to help a humanity which is increasing in number each day; for example by discovering methods of intensive food production adapted to local situations, or finding ways to alleviate or heal physical and mental suffering, or providing a dwelling for everyone? What things are essential for the UN to be able to give the younger generations the chance to contribute to the development of the whole world stimulating at the same time a passionate interest in the human person?

6 Many young people will have the necessary courage to be ambassadors of trust in places where there is mistrust, and bearers of peace where there is humiliation.

Will adults be ready to commit themselves to support these young people, and to lead the way for indispensable changes to be made in the UN? Do they realize that so many young people are eagerly waiting to be transformed by enthusiasm? An enthusiasm for a vital mission: that of making the world a place to live in, and of fostering trust between the peoples of the earth.

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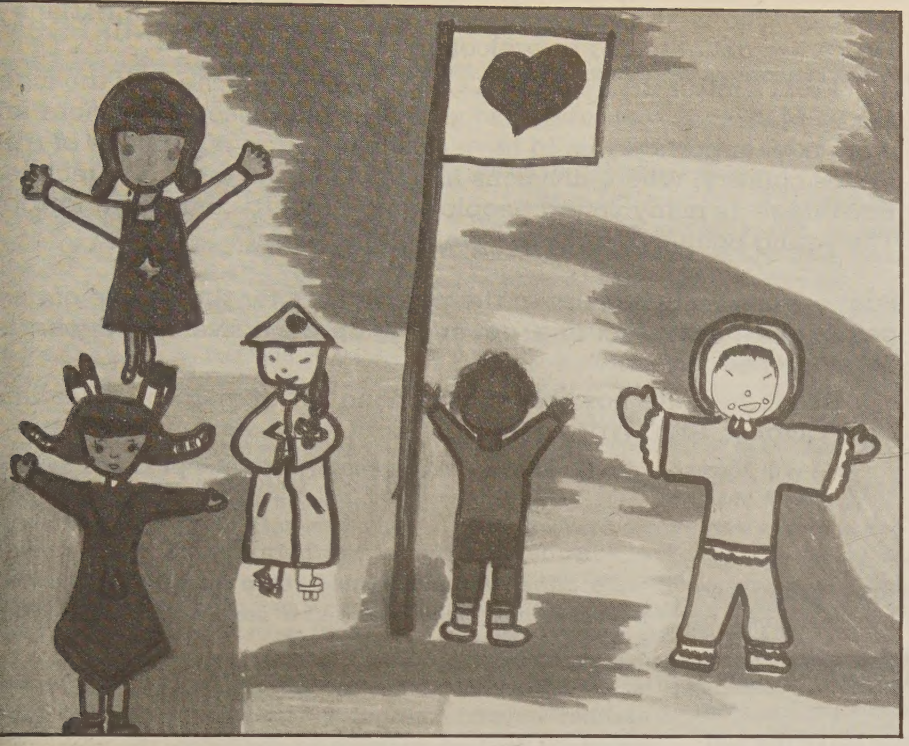


If you do drawings showing "trust on the earth" and send them to us, we will take them to MADRAS.

(Letter to children)

Hundreds of drawings have already arrived in Taizé from all over the world. Here, with its caption, is one of them which came from ITALY. Keep it up, children.

"My drawing shows the whole world at peace: only one flag, one family. Why do powerful adults make war all the time, spending millions on bombs, missiles, tanks and making innocent victims?"

Emanuela, 8 years old, Pavia

The European Meeting in Barcelona

Programme: participation in the life of the parishes and neighbourhoods of BARCELONA and surrounding region; prayer together twice a day; discussion groups. Possibility for those who wish to spend the five days in silence.

Registration: Send your form in before December 1st. Those hoping to organise a group to go the meeting are asked to let us know, even if nothing is certain. Give an estimate of numbers before November 15th.

Arrival: Monday morning December 30 between 7 am and 12 noon (and not before, except for the work, animation and music teams).

Departure: Friday mid-afternoon January 3rd.

Age: at least 17 yrs. Young people under 17: only if accompanied by their family or a group leader.

Accommodation: with families, in church halls, or with religious communities. Essential to bring air-mattress and sleeping-bag. Separate dormitories for boys and girls.

Cost: pay on arrival in Pesetas. Those whose currency is strong help those from countries with weaker currencies or whose governments forbid the export of money. People from Britain and Scandinavia are asked to contribute between 4500 and 5000 Pesetas; those from Ireland between 4000 and 4500 Pesetas. This includes meals during the meeting, and a travel pass on public transport.

Work teams, animators and musicians: (possibility restricted to those who are 17-30 years) Those who can help in these teams should arrive on Dec.28th, and indicate this on their registration forms. A coach for helpers will depart from London mid-afternoon Dec. 27th (contact Harris Coaches).Working usually also allows participation in the life of the parishes.

Travel: 1) People can get a group train ticket or hire a coach. (We cannot organise accommodation for coach drivers in Barcelona.)
2) From London, special coaches depart Sun. Dec. 29th (9.30 am Ealing, 10.20 am Victoria) returning for 3pm Sat. Jan. 4th. Return fares: Youth (up to 26 yrs): £65, Adult: £75. Harris Coaches, Manor Rd., West Thurrock, GRAYS, Essex RM16 1EH. Tel: (0708) 864911. Tickets available in the Irish Republic through: J Barter & Sons, 92 St Patrick Street, CORK. Tel: (021) 24261 Fares: IR£88.50 (Youth), IR£98.50 (Adult)

Overnight stop: you are welcome to stay in Ealing (West London), on the way to Barcelona. Contact Cathy Crozier, 8 Cain Court, Castlebar Mews, Ealing, LONDON W5. Tel: 01-997-5870 (home), 636-7366 (work). Or John Meacock: 01-840-2835.

REGISTRATION FORM to be filled in by all participants and sent, before 1st December (closing date) to: European Meeting, Taizé Community, 71250 CLUNY, France.

FIRST NAME :

FAMILY NAME :

ADDRESS :

(with post code and country)

Tel.: ...../..... Age: .....

Please circle "yes" or "no" to show which applies :

- I will make my own way to Barcelona yes / no

otherwise: I will be joining the group going from the town of: .....

leader's name: .....

- I will arrive in BARCELONA December 30th yes / no

I will arrive in BARCELONA December 28th yes / no

to participate in the teams for *(please circle):* Work Animation Music

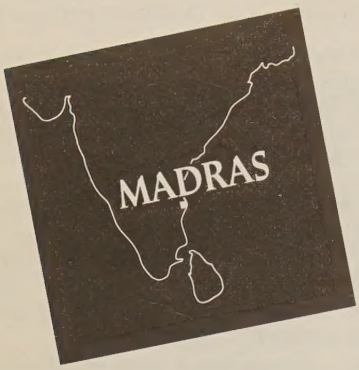
- I receive the Letter from Taizé regularly yes / no
- I would like .... additional forms (photocopy your own if possible)
- As I cannot sleep on the floor, I would like a bed yes / no

If so, say whether you are *(please circle):*

woman man couple family with children disabled with helper

- To assist the reception, if you have already arranged your own accommodation, kindly state the address and the parish: .....

MADRAS 1985
27 Dec. - 1 Jan.



Anyone who is still hesitant should know that many Christians in INDIA are delighted to be welcoming them.

From a letter from BANGALORE: "The significance of the meeting in Madras is well understood here. I am discovering more and more how important it is to have this meeting: a pilgrimage of trust in this country, where divisions are so visible, is much appreciated. Encourage as many young people as possible to come from Europe. The young people of India are waiting for them."

Suggestions will be made to the participants for the couple of days before or after the meeting, depending on the arrival and departure dates of their flights.

It has become possible to postpone the registration deadline until October 10th. Write now.

We will correspond with all who have registered for the practical details.

How to pay for the journey to MADRAS?

In Europe and America solidarities are being formed when several people put together their resources to cover the journey of one of them; when a parish "sends" someone from their youth group to MADRAS; when a group assumes the expenses of a young person from another country who could not otherwise make the journey.

This solidarity was evident in the numerous "prayers for trust on earth" which took place at the beginning of July in communion with the visit to the Secretary-General of the UN. Accounts have reached us from the cathedral of MADRAS, which was packed for the occasion, from CALCUTTA, where 200 young people gathered, from SINGAPORE, from a JAKARTA slum (Indonesia). In Australia, prayers took place in BRISBANE, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE and HOBART; and in New Zealand, in AUCKLAND and WELLINGTON; in the PHILIPPINES, in a prison in MANILA, in DAVAO, in ILO ILO; in Malaysia, in KUALA LUMPUR. Young people gathered to pray in BANGKOK, HONG KONG, NEW YORK, in SANTO DOMINGO, in HAITI, etc.

In the countries of Northern Europe, these prayers were often prepared with foreign minorities. This was how certain parishes decided to send a young immigrant from their parish to Madras.

Praying together, meeting to get to know one another beyond cultural differences, is already a response to the first question placed before the pilgrimage of trust on earth: how can we reduce suspicion?

Travelling thousands of kilometres to go to INDIA and meet those who are searching and struggling with the whole people of God is part of the same process as discovering witnesses of hope in God right near home.

Local visits are essential for the preparation. They should also make it possible to find symbols to bring along (drawings by children, objects made by the handicapped, an icon, a booklet of prayer intentions). It is important that parishes be associated with the meeting in MADRAS: make displays on INDIA with the help of experts or missionaries; put up children's drawings on the theme of trust on earth, some of which will be later brought to MADRAS.

A PILGRIMAGE OF TRUST ON EARTH
PELERINAGE DE CONFIANCE SUR LA TERRE
PELLEGRINAGGIO DI FIDUCIA SULLA TERRA
EEN PELGRIMAGE VAN VERTROUWEN OP AARDE
PEREGRINACION DE CONFIANZA A TRAVES DE LA TIERRA

Living God, you have not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of inner strength, of love. Thus you draw us out of ourselves and our doubts.

You want to make us ferments of reconciliation in the whole human family.

You have entrusted a mystery of hope to us, poor people of God. And yet you know our weakness, our hesitations; but you look at the heart and even if our heart condemns us, you are so much greater than our heart.

Prayer by Brother Roger

Tue 1 In Christ Jesus, you who were far apart have been brought close.
Hosea 2.16-22 ● *Eph 2.12-18* ● Lk 19.41-42, 45-48

Wed 2 Let us endeavor to know the Lord ; his coming is as certain as the dawn ; he will come to us like spring rains watering the earth. *Ho 6.1-6* ● Eph 3.2-6 ● Lk 20.1-8

Thu 3 Paul wrote: Through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God is at work, according to the plan which he had from all eternity in Christ Jesus. Ho 10.12 ● *Eph 3.7-13* ● Lk 20.9-19

These short readings, taken from the midday prayer in Taizé, can be read several times during the day. The references indicate longer readings. If you have time to read only one, the underlined one is suggested. The reference in italics shows the source of the short reading.

Fri 4 May God give you the power through his Spirit for your inner being to grow, and may Christ live in your hearts through faith.
Ho 11.1-4 ● *Eph 3.14-21* ● Lk 20.20-26

Sat 5 Jesus said: God is not a God of the dead, but of the living ; for him all people are alive. Ho 11.7-9 ● *Lk 20.37-38, 21.1-4*

SUN 6 Jesus said: Let the little children come to me ; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.
Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18 ● Heb 2.9-11 ● *Mark 10.13-16*

Mon 7 The Lord says: I will heal my people of their infidelity, I will love them with all my heart. I will answer them and care for them.
Ho 14.2-9 ● Eph 4.1-6 ● Lk 21.8,12-19

Tue 8 Jesus said: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be always alert, praying at all times.
1 Samuel 2.1-4 ● Eph 4.7-13 ● *Lk 21.29-33,36a*

Wed 9 If we live in love and in truth, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head, by whom the whole body grows in love.
1 S 3.1-9 ● *Eph 4.13-16* ● Lk 22.24-27

Thu 10 Let yourselves be made new by a spiritual revolution in your way of thinking, and be clothed in the new self created by God.
1 S 16.1-12 ● *Eph 4.22-29* ● Lk 22.28-32

Fri 11 Forgive one another, as God has forgiven you in Christ.
2 S 7.2-11 ● *Eph 4.30-5.2a* ● Matthew 13.1-9

Sat 12 The Lord in my rock and my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved.
2 S 22.1-4 ● Matt 13.10-11,16-17

SUN 13 Jesus is well able to understand our weaknesses ; he was tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he was without sin. Let us then, with confidence, approach God who is forgiving and loving.
Wisdom 6.12-16 ● *Heb 4.12-16* ● Mk 10.17-27

Mon 14 Enemies too strong for me confronted me on the day of disaster, but the Lord was my support ; he freed me and set me at large.
2 S 22.17-20 ● Eph 5.8-14 ● Matt 13.18-23

Tue 15 Be filled with the Spirit. Sing and celebrate the Lord in your hearts.
2 S 22.28-31 ● *Eph 5.15-20* ● Matt 13.24-30

Wed 16 Jesus said: The Kingdom of heaven is like some yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until the whole thing rose.
2 Sam 22.31-37 ● Eph 6.10-13 ● *Matt 13.31-35*

Thu 17 Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
2 Sam 23.1-5 ● *Eph 6.14-20* ● Matt 13.44-48,51-52

Fri 18 SAINT LUKE
Jesus said: The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 2 Tim 4.9-17a ● *Luke 10.1-7* ● Matt 14.13-21

Sat 19 Jesus said to the Canaanite woman: Woman, you have great faith ! May your request be granted.
Habakkuk 1.2-3,12-13,2.1-4 ● *Matt 15.21-28*

SUN 20 Jesus said: The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for all.
Is 53.10-12 ● Heb 4.14-16 ● *Mark 10.35-45*

Mon 21 Jesus went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came he was there alone. Joel 3.1-5 ● Rom 1.1-7 ● *Matt 14.22-33*

Tue 22 Jesus took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke them and gave them to his disciples, and they gave them to the crowd. They all ate their fill.
Micah 2.12-13 ● Rom 1.8-17 ● *Matt 15.32-39*

Wed 23 In days to come many nations will come and say: Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
Micah 4.1-4 ● Rom 2.13-15 ● Matt 16.1-12

Thu 24 Jesus asked his disciples: Who do people say I am ? For some John the Baptist, they answered ; for others Elijah ; for others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. But for you, he said, who am I ? Peter answered, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Micah 5.1-4a ● Rom 3.21-26 ● *Matt 16.13-20*

Fri 25 Happy those whose strength is in you, Lord. Passing through the Valley of the Weeper, they will make it a place of springs.
Ps 85 ● Micah 6.1-5 ● Rom 4.1-8 ● Matt 16.21-23

Sat 26 Jesus said: Whoever tries to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. Micah 6.6-8 ● *Matt 16.24-28*

SUN 27 The Lord says: I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am a father to my people. *Jer 31.8-9* ● Heb 5.1-6 ● Mark 10.46-52

Mon 28 What God is like you, O Lord ? You forgive sins and delight to show mercy.
Micah 7.18-20 ● Rom 4.17b-25 ● Matt 17.1-8

Tue 29 Our hope cannot disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
Zeph 3.9-13 ● *Rom 5.1-5* ● Matt 17.9-13

Wed 30 The proof that God loves us is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been reconciled to God by Christ's death, how much more shall we be saved by his life !
Zeph 3.14-18 ● *Rom 5.6-11* ● Matt 17.14-20

Thu 31 Thus says the Lord: Seek me and you shall live. Let justice flow like water, and righteousness like an unfailing stream.
Amos 5.4,14-15,24 ● Rom 5.15-21 ● Matt 17.22-27

CHAPTER 13 OF THE GOSPEL OF SAINT MATTHEW

In chapter 13 of his Gospel, Saint Matthew presents a series of parables on the "Kingdom of heaven", which is the fulfillment of history and which is at the heart of Jesus' message. Using simple examples taken from nature, Jesus tries to open the minds of his listeners to an understanding of "things hidden since the foundation of the world," (v.35) which, through his coming, are about to take place in the world. These stories point both to God's intention to give his love to all, and, within this universal plan, the respect he has for human freedom, which is called to say yes in return.

The Kingdom is compared to the work of a sower who sows without calculating his results first: it is the quality of the soil which will determine the harvest (v.3-9). Similarly, it is like a field where good seed and weeds grow together (v.24-30), like a net "which brings in a haul of all kinds of fish" (v.47-50). God's plan embraces everyone. Despite modest appearances, the Kingdom, like a grain of mustard seed or a bit of yeast, can grow until it fills and transforms the whole of human history. As soon as it meets good soil, the seed produces a hundredfold crop (v.8).

God wants to welcome everyone, but he never does violence to the freedom of his creatures to achieve that end. It is up to them to discover the treasure and, filled with joy, give up everything to buy the expensive pearl (v.44-46). Without that essential conversion of our hearts, Jesus' words and deeds will always remain enigmatic: "They look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding" (v.13-15). Whereas those who prepare themselves to welcome the seeds of life will have abundant happiness (v.12, 16-17) to share all around them (v.52).

November

Fri 1 FEAST OF ALL SAINTS
John wrote: I looked and saw a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They all fell down on their faces and worshipped God.
Rev 7.9-14 ● 1 John 3.1-3 ● Matt 5.1-12

Sat 2 Amos said: I am not a prophet by profession, but the Lord took me from behind my flock and said to me: Go and prophesy to my people. *Amos 7.12-15* ● Matt 18.1-5

SUN 3 Jesus said: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself. These are the two greatest commandments.
Deut 6.4-9 ● Heb 7.23-28 ● *Mark 12.28-34*

Mon 4 Jesus called to him a little child, and said: See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. Amos 8.11 ● Rom 6.1-6 ● *Matt 18.8-10*

Tue 5 Paul wrote: Christ's death was a death to sin, once and for all ; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Baruch 3.24-38 ● *Rom 6.8-14,22-23* ● Matt 18.12-14

Wed 6 O Lord, you have changed my mourning into dancing ; my heart will sing to you and not be silent ; O God, I will praise you forever.
Ps 30 ● Baruch 4.36-5.4 ● Rom 7.4-6 ● Matt 18.15-18

Thu 7 Peter asked Jesus: How many times should I forgive my brother ? Up to seven times ? Jesus answered: Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.
Baruch 5.7-9 ● Rom 8.1-4 ● *Matt 18.19-22*

Fri 8 God, who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies by his Spirit who lives in you.
1 Kings 8.22-30 ● *Rom 8.5-11* ● Matt 18.23-35

Sat 9 Jesus said to a rich young man: If you want to be perfect, go, sell all you own and give it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven ; then come, follow me.
1 Kings 8.38-43 ● *Matt 19.13-22*

SUN 10 Seeing a widow put two copper coins into the temple treasury, Jesus said: I tell you the truth, she has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth ; she put in all she had to live on.
1 Kings 17.10-16 ● Heb 9.24-28 ● *Mark 12.41-44*

Mon 11 Paul wrote: You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear ; you received the Spirit of sonship by which we cry out: Father !
1 Kings 17.17-24 ● *Rom 8.14-17* ● Matt 19.23-26

Tue 12 Jesus said: Anyone who leaves home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or fields for my sake will receive much more and will inherit eternal life.
1 Kings 19.3-8 ● Rom 8.18-25 ● *Matt 19.27-30*

Wed 13 In all things God works for the good of those who love him, those who have been called according to his purpose.
1 Kings 19.9-13a ● *Rom 8.26-30* ● Matt 20.1-16

Thu 14 Paul wrote: I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God manifested in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2 Kings 2.1-13 ● *Rom 8.31-39* ● Matt 20.17-23

THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Around the year 58, Saint Paul sent a letter "to all who are God's beloved in Rome" (1.7) and whom he had not yet met. Writing to that tiny community of believers set at the centre of the vast and powerful Roman empire, the apostle is led to reflect more globally than ever before on the Good News for which God made him a spokesman. His certainty: the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a seed capable of transforming the world, for through it "God's justice has been revealed" (3.21), in other words God's faithfulness to his designs of love. And this justice, incarnated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, has the capacity to justify those who accept it by faith, to bring them into communion with God and consequently with one another. Retracing the course of human history, Paul shows how, left to themselves, human beings have never been able to discover the path of justice. But by sending his only Son, God gives as a free gift what human efforts were unable to obtain. It is up to us, then, to open our hearts to this gift by faith, by a simple act of trust like that of "our father Abraham" (chap. 4).

Living a life of faith means crossing over with Jesus from death to life (6.3-11) ; it means being led by the Spirit of God (8.14) instead of living "according to the flesh", an existence turned in upon itself in an untenable attitude of self-sufficiency (8.1-13). The Spirit dwells in the hearts of believers and brings them into a relationship of filial trust with God (8.14-17). They are then able to live in hope (8.18-25). The Spirit teaches them to pray (8.26-27) and to make their lives a permanent gift (12.1-2). The community of believers is rooted firmly (8.35-39) in love, "the fulfilment of the Law" (13.8-10). It is one body built up by the different gifts of its members (12.3-10), where the strong have a special responsibility toward the weak (chap. 14). It lives in expectation of the great Day that is coming (13.11-12), when God's mercy will bathe the whole human family in its light (11.25-36).

Fri 15 Paul wrote: There is no difference between persons : the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him.
2 Kings 4.42-44 ● *Rom 10.8-13* ● Matt 20.24-28

Sat 16 By day, the Lord sends his love ; at night his song is with me a prayer to the God of my life. *Ps 42* ● 2 Kings 5.9-16 ● Matt 20.29-34

SUN 17 This is what the Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. I will shepherd the flock with justice.
Ezekiel 34.11-12,15-17 ● Heb 10.11-18 ● Mk 13.24-32

Mon 18 The Lord says: My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples.
Is 56.1-7 ● Rom 11.33-36 ● Matt 21.1-11

Tue 19 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Is 57.14-19 ● *Rom 12.1-5* ● Matt 21.12-17

Wed 20 If you loosen the chains of injustice, to set the oppressed free, if you share your bread with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter, then your light will break forth like the dawn, your wounds will quickly be healed, and the glory of the Lord will follow you.
Is 58.5-8 ● Rom 12.6-13 ● Matt 21.21-27

Thu 21 Bless those who persecute you ; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who are rejoicing, weep with those who weep.
Is 58.9b-11 ● *Rom 12.14-21* ● Matt 21.28-32

Fri 22 Paul wrote: All the commandments can be summed up in this: love your neighbour as yourself. Is 60.1-5 ● *Rom 13.8-10* ● Matt 21.33-46

Sat 23 The Lord said to his people: No longer will violence be heard in your land. You will call your gates Praise. The sun will no more be your light by day, nor the moon at night for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.
Is 60.17b-20 ● Matt 22.1-1

SUN 24 Jesus said: I have come into the world as a witness to the truth. Anyone born of the truth hears my voice.
Daniel 7.13-14 ● Rev 1.5-8 ● *John 18.33-3*

Mon 25 The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted and to proclaim freedom to captives.
Is 61.1-3 ● Rom 13.11-14 ● Matt 22.15-2

Tue 26 Paul wrote: Let us stop judging one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any obstacle in your brother's way.
Is 61.10-11 ● *Rom 14.1-13* ● Matt 22.31-4

Wed 27 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves in the image of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify God.
Is 62.1-5 ● *Rom 15.1-6* ● Matt 23.1-4,8-1

Thu 28 Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God.
Is 62.10-12 ● *Rom 15.7-13* ● Matt 23.37-3

Fri 29 The Lord says: See, I am going to create new heavens and a new earth. Be filled with rejoicing, for I am going to make my people a joy
Is 65.17-25 ● Rom 16.25-27 ● Matt 24.4-8,13-

Sat 30 SAINT ANDREW
Jesus saw Simon Peter and Andrew beside the Sea of Galilee. They were fishermen. Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men. Rom 10.9-18 ● *Matt 4.18-*

Preparing for Madras and Barcelona

Those who will go to MADRAS or to BARELONA, and those who, without going hemselves, are participating in the preparaons, will find material for reflection in the uestions put to the UN (page 1). Here are ome other topics dealt with in the meetings n Taizé. The contents of the first two days of week in Taizé were covered previously.

Dare to say yes

On the third day pages 4 and 5 are read from the ETTER FROM THE DESERT:
If a trusting heart... it is possible for you to say, "I vill".

At all times we have to respond to demands and ppeals. We say yes or no, sometimes verbally, often y deeds, or by our inner attitude. As for the call of God, Jesus lets us know in the parable of the young hen sent into the vineyard that we respond in whatver way we can but that God never forces us (Mt 1.28-32).

The essential thing is not to put an answer off ntil later. Even if we have not yet understood learly what God expects of us, we can start to live ut what we have understood, knowing that time is eeded to let a decision ripen. And to make that decion, we often need to find another person to be our ompanion, to listen to us.

When the question arises of making a step vhich will commit us to Christ for life, we remind urselves that Christ himself commits himself with s. We see this in John 21.15-19, for example: Peter ad denied him three times, but Jesus does not go way, he comes back to him and three times he asks im nothing other than: "Do you love me?" When eter answers him with a yes, Jesus trusts him imediately: "Look after my sheep." Jesus does not eproach him. On the contrary, he assures Peter: the es that he expects is the yes of our love and not a es founded on our own strength. This way Peter vill be the witness of Christ's forgiveness, which nakes fidelity possible. This forgiveness releases the apacity to love in us.

The commitment involved in saying yes is not a imitation; it is, on the contrary, the blossoming of ifts we have received. And Jesus tells us how this es leads to a new relationship with God. We are like he sons in the parable. He adds: "I shall no longer all you servants, you are my friends" (Jn 15.14-17). n this new relationship we bear lasting fruit. It is hrough this yes that we realise what we really are, nd what we are for others.

- How can we avoid being frightened when faced by commitment?
- What are the gifts that I can use to serve others?
- In what ways can we renew our yes?
- How does the yes shed light on the events of our lives? How does it help us to grow within?

(It may be possible to reflect more deeply on such questions in solitude or in dialogue with someone who knows how to listen and whom you trust).

This yes makes you vulnerable

On the fourth day, the last part of the LETTER FROM THE DESERT is read: "A yes because of Christ leaves you vulnerable... the beginning of everything.", and also page 6, with the Call to the Churches.

Having said yes to Christ, "could you run away from Christ in the communion of his Body, the Church, which is shaken on all sides, and flee a world ridden with suffering?"

The communion of the Church is created by Christ and he makes of it a ferment of communion for the whole of humanity.

To maintain the communion of the Church, Jesus said of himself that he is the good shepherd (Jn 10.9-16). The shepherd is the one who leads the way to finding water and food and who gives life in abundance. It is also he who gathers the flock together and who does not let a single one of his lambs stray; he always goes looking for the lost one (Mt 18.12-14). The shepherd is also the one who, instead of running away, takes risks to maintain communion. When the life of communion with God is threatened or forgotten, Jesus brings forgiveness by his Passion, even for those furthest away. (Rm 8.34).

Jesus adds that he gives his life for all people, not just for those who know him. He does not fear contact with the excluded lepers, the Roman invaders and sinners. It is for them that he came: Mc 2.13-17. He wants to gather together all humankind in a limitless fellowship, in the image of a festive meal to which all are invited, and the Church is called to give visible and concrete signs of this.

With Christ, we too are asked to serve those who are entrusted to us, to share a life of fullness and communion with them. Having seen how Jesus risks himself for this communion between people, let us ask ourselves how we can walk in his steps, in the places where we live and in our communities:

- Who are those entrusted to us (close to us or excluded from society)?
- How can we be signs of forgiveness and of the welcome of God, personally and in community?
- How can we, in the Church and in our communities, remain in solidarity with one another and be attentive to what brings us together, refusing whatever divides? Are we ready to run risks to foster communion?
- Concerning the Call to the Churches: what "places of hope" do we know of where our hopes for all are already being lived out?

BRAZIL AND KENYA

In BRAZIL, the episcopal conference prepares a National Eucharistic Congress every five years. As 1985 is International Youth Year, the Congress which took place July 16-21 in APARECIDA was particularly open to young people. Brother Roger was invited by the bishops to speak to the young people but could not go, so he sent a written message. Several brothers of the community who live in fraternity in North-East BRAZIL were asked to join the animation team for young people and take various responsibilities: welcoming people coming from all over BRAZIL, prayer celebrations, preparation of one of the evenings.

The International Eucharistic Congress took place this year in AFRICA, in NAIROBI, capital of KENYA, August 11-18. For several years now, some of the brothers of the community have been living in fraternity in a NAIROBI slum, called Mathare Valley. During the Eucharistic Congress they animated the stations of the cross across Mathare Valley, which made it possible for participants to pray with people from one of the poorest districts of AFRICA.

PHILIPPINES

During a visit to MANILA in the preparation period for the MADRAS Meeting:

"One day we had a celebration in the slum where the "Little Sisters of Jesus" live. The slum is right next to a rich neighbourhood and the same parish serves both neighbourhoods. There is almost no contact between the people of the two sides. This celebration was the beginning of contact between them.

The next day we were in another parish where we had had a pilgrimage last year. The church was packed. After the Eucharist, we had a night of prayer for all the peoples of the earth. The situation of the country gave this prayer a serious tenor. The people took turns praying throughout the night. Each of the basic communities of the parish came before the cross with an intention for prayer during a long prayer around the cross. There were two to three hundred people there each hour. The young people had brought along a large globe and that night, we made quite a pilgrimage around the world. A Latin-American prayed for all the countries of SOUTH AMERICA. A North American followed him. Someone from Togo prayed for the many countries of AFRICA. For EUROPE, we thought above all of the EASTERN COUNTRIES. There were still young people in the church at 5.30 am."

SPAIN

"There is nothing easy about working among deprived people. It is important to be consistent and I know well that, myself, I could never really be one of them.

How did I come to be with them? Because of my faith, I felt the need to immerse myself in poverty and sharing, and it was then that the first children started to come to us. They were boys from the street, homeless, their families unconcerned about how they were living. Their mothers, working as prostitutes, had no time to waste on them.

Through the children I entered the world of juvenile delinquency. We started by taking them out of their neighbourhood to school. But the children already have characters all their own; they tire easily of a regular life with a timetable.

Some of them are now in prison. Since quite recently, I have started to visit the prisoners. One day I received a letter from one of them which, among other things, said: "I pray for you, that you may be able to help me to find God. I no longer have the strength to live and feel punished by life." (He is 18 years old.)

That letter started me thinking. I read that paragraph several times and then began to prepare a catechesis which makes dialogue with them easier. They need words of hope because finding God in a prison must be very difficult.

Despite the moments of anxiety and obscurity which we all go through, I keep up the courage and the desire to continue along the road."

UNITED STATES

While several Taizé brothers live permanently in a Hispanic neighbourhood in NEW YORK, some brothers take part frequently in stages of the "pilgrimage of reconciliation" across the UNITED STATES.

Recently brothers were responsible for a retreat in preparation for the meeting in MADRAS, which took place in HIGHLAND LAKE, near NEW YORK. In June the National Association of Pastoral Musicians brought together 4,500 Catholic liturgists and musicians from all over the country in CINCINNATI (Ohio). Three brothers led one of the times of prayer and several workshops. In August a meeting in DENVER, Colorado, brought together 17,000 young Lutherans. Three brothers were invited to prepare a place of prayer, silence and reflection where prayer took place every hour.

In September, October and the beginning of November new steps in the "pilgrimage of reconciliation" will take place in: Reading, Pa; Birmingham, Al; Durham, N.C.; Fairfax, Ca; Eastern Oregon; Burlingame, Ca; Poughkeepsie, N.Y. For information contact: Taizé, 413 W. 48th Street, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036, tel. (212) 246-0029.

BRITAIN

A few steps in the pilgrimage of trust.....

In SHEFFIELD, last Saturday of each month, 11.00 am, prayer in the crypt of the Anglican cathedral.

A weekend meeting, staying with families and parish communities in WHITEHAVEN, Cumbria, 4th-6th October. Those from outside Cumbria are also very welcome! Contact: Michael Fischer, Staff Hostel, West Cumberland Hospital, Hensingham, Whitehaven.

Saturday, October 19th: Afternoon meeting in the crypt of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, LONDON. Arrive 12.30pm with picnic lunch to share. Evening prayer at approx 6.00pm. End at 7.00pm.

Sat. Oct 26th: afternoon pilgrimage in WOODFORD GREEN, Essex; starting at All Saints Church (Woodford Green tube station). Contact: Christine Reekie, 01-504-0071

Sat. Nov. 23rd: afternoon meeting in the Catholic Chaplaincy, 111 Gower Street, LONDON WC1. Contact Jackie Hynes, 35 Beechmount Ave, Hanwell, W7. 01-578-5841

Two books to help with preparing common prayer at home...

"Praying Together in Word & Song, revised edition" (will be published Oct 31st £1.95). Contains suggestions for prayer together, and also 20 prayers by Brother Roger and 30 chants in 4-parts: Mowbrays, 28 Margaret Street, LONDON W1N 7LB.

"Music from Taizé, Volume 2" - will be published by Collins this autumn.

Coach Services to Taizé, Autumn 1985 - Summer 1986

Depart London:	Depart Taizé
(Autumn 1/2-term)	
FRI 18 OCT	SAT 26 OCT 1985
(Holy Week meeting)	
SAT 22 MAR 1986	SUN 30 MAR 1986
(Easter weekend)	
WED 26 MAR	MON 31 MAR
(Week after Easter)	
SUN 30 MAR	SUN 6 APR
(Summer 1/2-term)	
FRI 23 MAY	SAT 31 MAY
(summer meetings)	
SAT 21 JUNE & every	SUN 29 JUNE & every
SAT until 21 SEPT	SUN until 28 SEPT

Return fares for services up to and including April 1986: £50 youth (up to 26 years), £60 adult (27 years and over). All details from Harris Coaches (see Barcelona information)

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